

THE LONG WAR

Sunday, October 31, 2021 -- Reformation Sunday -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

TWO KEY VISIONS FOR US AS WE...

- consider the Past (church history and the Reformation)
- consider the Present (our current situation and culture)
- consider the Future (eternity to come)

VISION 1: RENEWAL.

- **Only God can truly save us, renew us and keep us.**

Lamentations 3:19-27

- 19 *Remember my affliction and my wanderings,
the wormwood and the gall!*
- 20 *My soul continually remembers it
and is bowed down within me.*
- 21 *But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:*
- 22 *The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;*
- 23 *they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*
- 24 *"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."*
- 25 *The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul who seeks him.*
- 26 *It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.*
- 27 *It is good for a man that he bear
the yoke in his youth.*

EXODUS 34:6-7

The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

Psalms 139:17-18

- 17 *How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!*
- 18 *If I would count them, they are more than the sand.
I awake, and I am still with you.*

Hosea 6:3

*Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD;
His going forth is certain as the dawn;
And He will come to us like the rain,
Like the spring rains watering the earth."*

- He renews us by His Word, His Spirit, and His people.
- He renews those who seek Him. Hebrews 11:6; Hosea 10:12

VISION 2: REENGAGEMENT: Wake up. Realize and Reengage.

Nehemiah 4:10-14 -- The City and Temple laid in ruins. It was time to rebuild.

10 In Judah it was said, "The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall." **11** And our enemies said, "They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work."

12 At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times, "You must return to us." **13** So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. **14** And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes."

We are not just in a battle, but a WAR.

It is a long war. It spans generations and millennia.

1) When it comes to OURSELVES, we must realize our situation and all it's implications.

- This war is dangerous.
- This war has consequences.
- This war has opportunity -- God's glory!
- This war requires holiness and purity -- they bring God's power!
- This war requires faith and faithfulness -- the keys to victory!

2) When it comes to our CHILDREN, we must protect them, nurture them, and grow them.

But we must also prepare them to go to WAR.

**TO BE VICTORIOUS in this war we
(and our children) must have..**

- the truth of God that is forever,
- a faith in God that does not waiver,
- trained minds that can think and
- transformed hearts that will obey.

Realize Some of the Present Attacks are...

- 1) Assault on the True Gospel.
- 2) Assault on the image and glory of God in humanity.
(LGBTQ+, gender obfuscation, abortion)
- 3) Assault on the first order of society -- the family.
- 4) Assault on the unity of the church.

PRACTICAL ACTION:

- 1) Be renewed in Christ! Acts 3:19 -- repent and return
- 2) Kick the values and garbage of the world out of your life!
- 3) Feed your mind and soul on God's truth.
- 4) Begin radical obedience.

LEFTIST IDEOLOGIES vs JUDEO-CHRISTIAN VALUES

Your THEOLOGY leads to

Your WORLD VIEW which leads to

Your VALUES which leads to your

Your BEHAVIOR, YOUR POLITICS and

Your CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING